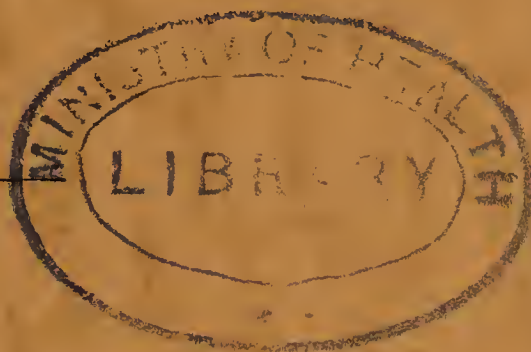


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OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health:

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

L. E. LETHBRIDGE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Appointed 1.1.54)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H. W. SILLIFANT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor:

L. G. BAILEY, F.F.S. (Eng.)

Technical Assistant:

I. G. CANN

Clerks in the Department:

T. MARSHALL

Miss M. L. BRAY



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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1954, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the district was good throughout the year in spite of an exceptionally wet summer.

The population continued to show a decline.

The vital statistics when corrected compare favourably with the country as a whole and are set out in the accompanying tables.

SECTION A

General Statistics

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	132,535
Population—1931 Census	...	...	...	...	12,853
Population—1951 Census	...	...	...	...	12,621
Estimated Home Population—Mid 1954	...	...	...	...	12,160
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	3,980
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£54,956
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£221
Loan Debt	...	...	...	...	£337,400

Vital Statistics

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births	...	...	...	...	81	73	154
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	76	71	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	2	

							<i>England & Wales</i>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	12.7		15.2
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	15.1		
Still Births	...	...	...	...	3		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	19.1		23.4

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	78	102	180	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	14.8			11.3
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	...	11.4			
Deaths from Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil			
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	—			0.69
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	3			
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	19.5			25.5

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1946	12,320	17.9	12.9
1947	12,290	20.6	14.1
1948	12,300	17.2	12.8
1949	12,250	13.2	14.4
1950	12,340	14.3	14.3
1951	12,520	13.1	16.5
1952	12,320	13.1	12.7
1953	12,280	14.6	10.8
1954	12,160	12.7	14.8

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Infectious Causes :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

General Causes :

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	43
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	32
Cerebral Vascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	25
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	...	...	21
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7
Disease of the Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	6
Arteriosclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastric Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accidental	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	19
TOTAL						180

Causes of Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

Aspiration Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Birth Injury	...	...	...	...	1
Severe Broncho Pneumonia		...	...	...	1
			TOTAL	...	3.

Age of Death Table

<i>Age at Death :</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	1	2
1-5 years	...	...	...	—	—
5-15 years	...	...	...	—	—
15-25 years	...	...	...	2	1
25-35 years	...	...	...	—	1
35-45 years	...	...	...	1	3
45-55 years	...	...	...	6	9
55-65 years	...	...	...	10	5
65-75 years	...	...	...	23	28
75 and over	...	...	...	35	53
TOTALS				78	102

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services

There was no change in the general provision of health services and they continued to run smoothly.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 : Considerable activity occurred under this Act during the year. A number of old people were brought to my notice by either the doctors, welfare officer or by private persons. Most of these were accommodated at home by the provision of home help. This form of assistance could, in my opinion, be greatly extended to the benefit of the rate payer and the old person in question. However, in your district the service is at present rudimentary but its proper organisation could form a most useful outlet for the energy of such a useful body as the Women's Voluntary Service.

In two cases compulsory removal of an old person had to be resorted to under Section 47 of the Act. In each case benefit to the individual accrued.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Attention is drawn to the comprehensive table at the end of the report which sets out in detail the service to each parish in accordance with the Ministry's instructions.

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress during the year in your district :—

BRATTON CLOVELLY WATER SUPPLY : Mainlaying was completed during the year for the piped supply to Bratton Clovelly and Reed.

BROADWOODKELLY WATER SUPPLY : Mainlaying for a supply to Broadwoodkelly and Splatt should commence in the late summer and the supply should be available this year.

HATHERLEIGH WATER SUPPLY : This supply is now connected to the trunk main at Highampton and the water is available from the Board's Prewley Works.

IDDESLEIGH WATER SUPPLY : A scheme to supply Iddesleigh with a main water supply will be commenced during the summer and a supply will be available during the autumn.

INWARDLEIGH WATER SUPPLY : Mainlaying has commenced on the scheme Northlew-Inwardleigh-Folly Gate, and a supply to these places will be available by mid summer.

MEETH WATER SUPPLY : The extension from Hatherleigh to Meeth was completed during the year and a supply from the Board's Prewley Works is now available.

NORTH TAWTON WATER SUPPLY : The new scheme for taking additional water from the Woollen Factory at North Tawton and for a supply to Sampford Courtenay is now complete. An extension was also completed to Sampford Chapple.

SAMPFORD COURTENAY WATER SUPPLY : Mains supply is now available.

In addition, the new trunk main from Hatherleigh to Winkleigh via Ingleigh Green has commenced. This will enable Prewley water to be supplied on this route and also to Iddesleigh and Broadwoodkelly who are without supplies at present, and also to the existing supplies of Monkokehampston, Jacobstowe and Exbourne.

The following samples were taken by the Board during the year :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Samples Taken</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Bad</i>
Belstone	7	5	2	—
Bondleigh	2	2	—	—
Bridestowe	5	4	1	—
Broadwoodkelly	4	3	—	1
Chagford	7	3	2	2
Sandy Park	3	3	—	—
Drewsteignton	7	6	1	—
Crockernwell	3	—	3	—
Exbourne	9	6	2	1
Gidleigh	2	2	—	—
Hatherleigh	6	6	—	—
Highampton	2	2	—	—
Northlew	1	1	—	—
North Tawton	18	15	1	2
Sampford Courtenay	11	8	2	1
Sourton	2	2	—	—
South Zeal	10	8	2	—
Spreyton	6	3	3	—
Throwleigh	9	8	—	1
TOTALS	114	87	19	8

Analysis of Water Supplies (Public and Private)

The following samples were taken by your Inspectors during the year :—

	<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Bacteriological Examination of Water ...	38	11	27
Chemical Analysis of Water	2	1	1
TOTALS	40	12	28

Samples of water taken from seven wells supplying the built-up area of Bondleigh were submitted for bacteriological examination and in all cases analysis revealed the water to be unfit for drinking purposes in the raw state.

As the wells were of a shallow nature, either fed by subsoil water or surface springs, any satisfactory remedial measures were considered to be impracticable. The Council decided to inform the North Devon Water Board of the position and in the interests of public health requested that the bringing of mains supply to the area be expedited. In the meantime, all persons using the present supplies were advised by letter to boil all water before use.

Drainage and Sewerage

BRIDESTOWE : It was necessary to remove the whole of the media from the sludge drying beds, clean and relay the under drainings pipes and renew the filter media. Part of the media of the percolating filter was removed, the remainder thoroughly washed through and the depth of the media brought up to effective level with fresh clinker.

CHAGFORD : Agreement on the purchase of the sewage disposal site was further delayed on account of difficulties regarding a right of way and access to the works. By a slight re-arrangement of some of the works units the query regarding a right of way was overcome and also that of the access road. Negotiations are now proceeding between the District Valuer and the agent for the owner.

CROCKERNWELL : Work on improvements to the existing settling tank, the construction of a new percolating filter and storm water overflow, has been completed, and the new scheme is working efficiently. The total cost of the works was £257. 13s. 9d. As part of the village is within the Crediton Rural District, agreement was reached between both Councils on the proportion of cost to be borne by each respecting the work carried out and also for future maintenance.

EXBOURNE : The Consulting Engineers have made certain amendments to the works layout to deal with certain farm drainage entering the existing sewers. Revised estimated costs and details submitted by the Consulting Engineers have been submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HATHERLEIGH : An outline scheme for the sewage disposal of Hatherleigh was submitted to the Council by the Consulting Engineers, with a site on the north bank of the river. The Council felt that a complete scheme should include a further fifteen properties, at present unsewered, and suggested an alternative site on the south bank of the river. This was found to be practicable by the Engineers and negotiations are now proceeding with the owner of the land as to purchase price.

MONKOKEHAMPTON : Amended drawings required by the Ministry were approved and authority given to the Council to invite tenders. Subject to Ministry approval the lowest tender of £3,865. 19s. 4d. has been accepted.

NORTHLEW : The Consulting Engineers have submitted an outline scheme to gravitate the sewage from most of the built-up area to one disposal site instead of three outfalls as at present. Negotiations are proceeding between the District Valuer and the owner of the site as to purchase.

NORTH TAWTON : Analysis of the sewage effluent entering the River Taw showed that the degree of impurity, as measured by its pollutive power, was not less than three times greater than the Royal Commission's approved maximum. The Council were advised by their Sanitary Officer that the existing system of broad irrigation was inadequate to meet present day demands and ensure a satisfactory effluent. The only real solution was to proceed with a scheme of sewage disposal already prepared by the Consulting Engineers. With this object in view the Council decided to open negotiations with the owner of the land for the purchase of the proposed works site.

SOURTON : A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the main built-up area is being prepared by the Public Health Department and drawings and data are well advanced.

SOUTH ZEAL : The contract for extensive improvements of the sewage disposal works is practically complete. The new settling and detritus tanks, storm water overflows, humus tank and sludge drying beds are now in use.

GENERAL : During the year piped water supplies were taken by the North Devon Water Board to Sampford Courtenay and Highampton. Preliminary surveys have already been made to prepare schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for these villages.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

The following table sets out the visits, etc., carried out by the Inspectors during the year :—

<i>Types of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Intimation Notices Served</i>	<i>No. of Intimation Notices complied with</i>
Houses inspected	119	44	40
Houses re-inspected	133	—	—
Premises other than houses and not mentioned below	73	9	9
Ice Cream Premises	33	—	—
Other Food Premises	101	11	7
Dairies	45	—	—
Refuse Tips	45	—	—
Public Conveniences	79	—	—
Water Supplies	57	5	2
Drainage	93	—	—
Sewerage	293	—	—
Infectious Diseases	6	—	—
Petroleum Acts	40	—	—
Slaughterhouses	254	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits not classified ...	133	—	—
TOTALS	1,504	69	58

One Statutory Notice served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act was completed.

Rodent Control

1st Inspections, re-inspections and visits for treatments :—

Private Houses	1,658
Business Premises	363
Sewers and Sewage Outfalls	87
Refuse Tips	30
Agricultural Properties	1,132
TOTAL	3,270

Number of bodies recovered after treatments—1,897.
 Total number of baiting points—14,048.
 Types of Poison used—Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, Red Squill, (Mafantu)
 A.N.T.U., (Warfarin) Sorex I, Sorex D.

Early in the year a new system of inspections was introduced to ensure a uniform survey of the district. The twenty-seven parishes were divided into eight contiguous sub-districts and by this method a complete survey of the whole of the Rural District was made.

The number of complaints of rat and mice infestation received during the year was 61.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council considered further requests received during the year for either more frequent collections or the inclusion of scattered groups of properties within the refuse collection areas.

In most cases these were approved and collection facilities granted to a further 89 properties. More frequent collections were also authorised for the built-up areas of the parishes of Belstone and Drewsteignton. The annual cost of the new scheme will be £1,364. 17s. 0d.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

1. *Inspections.*

<i>Premises</i> (i)	<i>Number on Register</i> (ii)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i> (iii)	<i>Written Notices</i> (iv)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (v)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	46	49	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	46	49	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i> (i)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>			<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (vi)	
	<i>Found</i> (ii)	<i>Remedied</i> (iii)	<i>Referred</i> <i>To H.M. Inspector</i> (iv)		<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (v)
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: (a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	8	8	—	—	—

OUTWORK.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing Apparel-Making, etc.	7

SECTION D

Housing

No further progress was made with the Rural Housing Survey but a start was made towards the end of the year on the representation of properties considered to be unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit.

Six properties were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and proposals submitted to the Council by owners were being considered. Two properties, the subject of operative demolition orders, were in course of demolition, and another two properties demolished by the owner as a result of informal action.

Mr. Bailey, Engineer and Surveyor, has submitted the following housing report for the year :—

There has been continued satisfactory progress with housing schemes in the district. The recently erected four houses at Essington, North Tawton, completed the development of that estate, whilst the six bungalows at Orchard Meadow Estate, Chagford, will similarly close development in that area of the town. Two new estates of six and four respectively have been completed at Northlew and Bridestowe, and two bungalows are now ready for occupation at Iddesleigh.

Further schemes are ready for operation at Broadwoodkelly and Exbourne, where tenders have been accepted by the Council, and a scheme to provide four bungalows at Spreyton has been accepted and temporarily held up pending the provision of a satisfactory water supply.

PLANNING : The number of applications for development requiring planning approval have shown a steady increase over the past twelve months and the delegation of authority to the District Council in regard to many of the planning decisions has necessitated many additional duties in connection with the preliminary inspections of sites and examination reports on submitted plans.

The plans submitted and approved during 1954 show the following totals :—

Conversions and Adaptations	...	...	...	66
Farm Buildings	...	...	...	45
New Properties	...	...	...	59
Advertisements	...	...	...	12
Others	...	...	...	37
TOTAL				219

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : Increasing interest is being shown in the conversion or adaptation of buildings to provide improved accommodation throughout the district, and 34 applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, have been received. Of this total, approval has been given in nine cases, one has been refused and seven withdrawn. The remaining seventeen applications have received “ outline ” approvals, and submission of final details are awaited.

COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT,

Year 1954/5

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Total No. in Parish</i>
BEAWORTHY ...	Black Hill ...	2	
	Patchacott ...	2	4
BELSTONE ...	Tor Down ...	6	6
BONDLEIGH ...	Village ...	4	4
BRATTON CLOVELLY	Village ...	3	3
BRIDESTOWE ...	Princess Elizabeth Terrace	8	
	Brid Close ...	4	12
BROADWOODKELLY ...	Village ...	2	
	Splatt ...	1	3
CHAGFORD ...	Dennis Park ...	33	
	Biera View ...	8	
	Orchard Meadow ...	29	
	"Monte Rosa" ...	5	
	New Street ...	4	79
DREWSTEIGNTON ...	Lamb's Park ...	4	
	Knowle Lane ...	4	
	Whiddon Down ...	8	16
EXBOURNE ...	Cawsand View ...	2	2
GERMANSWEEK ...	— ...	—	—
GIDLEIGH ...	— ...	—	—
HATHERLEIGH ...	Moor View Terrace ...	12	
	Higher Street ...	6	
	Normandy Place ...	4	
	Claremont Place ...	14	36
HIGHAMPTON ...	High View ...	2	2
IDDESLEIGH ...	Village ...	2	2
INWARDLEIGH ...	Folly Gate Village ...	6	
	Folly Gate—New Road ...	13	19
JACOBSTOWE ...	— ...	—	—
MEETH ...	Station Road ...	10	10
MONK OKEHAMPTON ...	Village ...	2	2
NORTHLEW WITH ASHBURY ...	Village ...	4	
	Moor View ...	6	10
NORTH TAWTON ...	Barton Hill ...	16	
	Fore Street ...	8	
	Essington ...	18	42
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS ...	Chichacott ...	4	
	Peacewater ...	2	
	Fatherford Flats ...	7	13
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	Village ...	4	
	Station ...	4	
	Tongue End ...	2	
	Sticklepath—Queen Haye	6	16
SOURTON ...	Village ...	4	
	Windard Terrace ...	6	
	Sourton Down ...	6	16
SOUTH TAWTON ...	Hill Crest ...	8	
	South Zeal—Cross Park ...	10	
	South Zeal—The Croft ...	24	
	Whiddon Down— Barn Close ...	10	52
SPREYTON ...	Cross Meadow ...	6	6
THROWLEIGH ...	Middle Clampitts ...	4	
	Wonson ...	2	6
GRAND TOTAL		...	361

HOUSING PROGRAMME, 1955/56

<i>ESTATE</i>	<i>No. of houses commenced and completed before 31/3/55</i>	<i>No. of houses in course of erection at 31/3/55</i>	<i>Sites under consideration</i>	<i>Sites selected</i>	<i>Lay-out Plans approved</i>	<i>House Plans approved</i>	<i>No. of houses proposed</i>	<i>No. of houses proposed for 1955 programme</i>	<i>Anticipated Commencement 1955</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion 1955</i>	<i>Proposed future development to complete site</i>	<i>Ordinance Survey Location</i>
BELSTONE ...	—	—	—	*	*	*	6 (T)	—	—	—	—	O.S. 233
CHAGFORD— Orchard Meadow ...	—	6 (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 586
INWARDLEIGH— New Road Estate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	O.S. 456
NORTH TAWTON— Essington ...	4 (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 582
SOUTH TAWTON— Cross Park ...	—	—	—	*	*	*	6 (b)	6 (b)	6 (b)	6 (b)	—	O.S. 2229
BONDLEIGH ...	—	—	—	*	—	—	4 (b)	4 (b)	4 (b)	4 (b)	—	O.S. 326
BROADWOODKELLY ...	—	—	—	*	*	*	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S. 553
EXBOURNE ...	—	—	—	*	*	*	6 (b)	6 (b)	6 (b)	6 (b)	—	O.S. 140
HIGHAMPTON ...	—	—	*	—	—	—	4 (T)	4 (T)	4 (T)	4 (T)	—	O.S. 606
IDDESLEIGH ...	—	2 (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 618
NORTHLEW—Moor View	6 (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 339
SPREYTON ...	—	—	—	*	*	*	4 (b)	4 (b)	4 (b)	4 (b)	—	O.S. 585
BRIDESTOWE—Brid Close	4 (T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S. 1174
MONKKEHAMPTON ...	—	—	—	*	—	—	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S. 155
TOTALS ...	14 (T)	8 (b)	—	—	—	—	20 (b) 14 (T)	20 (b) 8 (T)	20 (b) 8 (T)	20 (b) 8 (T)	39	

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

PART A—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured "pink" ...	Nil	—	Nil
(2) Land coloured "grey" ...	—	Nil	Nil

PART B—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS :		
(1) <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ...	2	2
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	10	45
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	Nil	Nil
(2) <i>Housing Act, 1949</i>		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
(3) <i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</i>		
Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) ...	Nil	Nil
		Number of Houses
REPAIRS :		
INFORMAL ACTION		
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...		40
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS		
(5) <i>Public Health Acts</i>		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...		
(a) by Owners		1
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil
(6) <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) ...		
(a) by Owners		Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological Examination of Milk (Methylene Blue Test)

<i>Description of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Ungraded Raw	15	11	4

In the four cases where samples failed, faults were found in the methods of handling milk and rectified. Samples taken after advice was given proved to be satisfactory.

Examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli

Two samples were examined biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli and found to be negative.

Ice Cream

Three applications for registration of premises for the sale of prepacked ice cream were approved by the Council.

Unsound Food

Quantities of unsound food inspected during the year resulted in 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 15 lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs being voluntarily surrendered by owners and tradesmen as being unfit for human consumption and 36 certificates were issued in this connection.

Clean Food Campaign

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, were adopted by the Council, confirmed by the Ministry of Food, and came into operation on the 5th April, 1954. Copies were sold to owners and occupiers of food preparing premises and in eleven cases where faults were found, seven were rectified at the end of the year by informal action.

Slaughterhouses

In anticipation of the decontrol of meat in July, 1954, the Council gave consideration to the opening of private slaughterhouses in the Rural District. A joint consultative committee of representatives of the Rural and Borough Councils was set up with a view to the adoption of a uniform standard of repair and sanitary conditions for each slaughterhouse to be licenced. This was agreed on and of the eleven slaughterhouses inspected in the Rural Area, one was found to be reasonably satisfactory, seven could be made satisfactory, and three totally unsuitable. Owners and occupiers were informed that subject to specified works being carried out satisfactorily licences would be granted by the Council for a period of three years. Four butchers agreed to do the works required and a licence was granted for a slaughterhouse in each of the following parishes—Exbourne, Hatherleigh, North Tawton and South Zeal. Slaughtering commenced on 3rd July, 1954, and a total of 254 visits was made during the year in connection with the licensing of the slaughterhouses and the inspection of meat.

The total number of carcasses inspected in the private slaughterhouses from July to the end of the year was 1,403 which was made up as follows :—

Bovines	167
Calves	13
Sheep and Lambs	1,046
Pigs	177

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 1 ton, 5 cwts., 3 qrs., 9 lbs.

The number of animals inspected and the carcasses, parts or organs condemned are set out in the following table :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	158	9	13	1046	177
Number inspected	158	9	13	1046	177
All diseases except tuberculosis : Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	3	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	82	4	—	14	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	51.9%	44.4%	—	1.62%	3.95%
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses con- demned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	19	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	12.25%	11.11%	—	—	2.26%

The meat supply continued to come from the Tavistock Abattoir from 1st January to 3rd July, 1954, and was duly inspected there. By permission of the Urban Council the following table of meat inspection is submitted for that period :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	592	461	457	5249	2389
Number inspected	592	461	457	5249	2389
All diseases except tuberculosis : Whole carcasses con- demned	6	23	74	48	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	320	281	5	1040	637
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	55.06%	65.94%	17.28%	20.72%	27.04%
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses con- demned	5	22	—	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	60	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.39%	17.78%	—	—	1.84%

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Sixteen applications were received for licences to slaughter or stun animals and in all cases licences were granted by the Council.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

Samples taken under Section 3, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Draught Vinegar	}	All Genuine
Draught Vinegar		
Chicken and Ham Paste		
Salmon and Tomato Spread		
Butterscotch		
Lard		
Milk—8% deficient in fat.		

65 samples of milk were subjected to the Gerber Test and all were genuine.

School Milk

The following samples were taken by the County Inspector during the year :—

Pasteurised: Total—5. Passed—5.

Tuberculin Tested: Total—7. Passed—7.

Ungraded: Total—24. Passed—14. Failed—10.

Producer/Retailer Samples of Milk taken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by the County Inspector

Total—28. Passed—24. Failed—4.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

Infectious disease was practically non-existent throughout the year. Cases notified by doctors and schools are set out in the accompanying tables.

DIPHTHERIA : No case of this disease occurred during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS : The district was free of this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS : Two new cases of Pulmonary and four new cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. One death was recorded from each cause.

At the end of the year 89 cases of tuberculosis remained on the register as follows :—

<i>Pulmonary</i>				<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			
Males	...	...	32	Males	...	...	14
Females	...	...	33	Females	...	...	10

In conclusion I would thank the Chairman and Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times, and the Sanitary staff and others who have materially assisted in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases notified by Medical Practitioners

<i>Age</i>		<i>Scarlet Fever</i> M. F.		<i>Whooping Cough</i> M. F.		<i>Measles</i> M. F.		<i>Pneumonia</i> M. F.		<i>Erysipelas</i> M. F.	
Under 1 year	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 years	...	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	...	1	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
10-14 years	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
15-24 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 and over	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
Age unknown	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
TOTALS	...	1	—	5	5	3	3	5	4	1	—

Infectious Diseases notified by Schools

<i>School</i>	<i>Ophthalmia</i>	<i>Chicken Pox</i>	<i>Mumps</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Acute Conjunctivitis</i>	<i>Pink Eye</i>
Exbourne	—	1	—	—	—	2
Hatherleigh	—	—	—	—	17	—
Spreyton	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sticklepath	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whiddon Down	—	—	1	3	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	1	3	17	2

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses	Where the waters are liable to have plumbol- solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and results of analyses	Action in respect of any form of contamination	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains: (a) direct to the houses; (b) by means of standpipes		
					No. of Dwelling Houses		
					Main	Standpipe	Main
ASHBURY ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	12	—	42
	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	9	—	32
BELSTONE ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply : 7 samples taken—all satisfactory	Nil	Chlorination	74	—	259
BONDLEIGH ...	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	No Piped Supply Wells only	Yes, in the past	Nil	—	—	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	42	—	134
BRIDESTOWE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply, 5 samples taken—all satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	75	—	262
BROADWOOD-KELLY ...	(a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	No piped supply Wells only	Yes	New lining	—	—	—
CHAGFORD ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 10 samples taken—8 satisfactory ; 2 unsatisfactory	Yes, slight	Chlorination	366	—	1281
DREWSTEIGN-TON	(a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 10 samples taken—all satisfactory	Yes, but dealt with	Chlorination	80	—	280
EXBOURNE ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 9 samples taken—8 satisfactory ; 1 unsatisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	69	—	241
GERMANSWEEK	(a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	No piped supply Private wells only	In the past	Nil	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH ...	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Doubtful	No piped supply Private supply only	Nil	Nil	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 6 samples taken—all satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	270	—	945
HIGHAMPTON ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 2 samples taken— satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	37	—	130
IDDESLEIGH ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	No piped supply Two public wells	Yes, but dealt with	Nil	—	—	—
INWARDLEIGH	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	No piped supply Private supplies	Nil	Chlorination	—	—	—
JACOBSTOWE ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. No samples taken	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	18	—	63
MEETH ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	10	—	32
MONK OKEHAMPTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Piped supply. No samples taken	No	Nil	22	—	77
NORTHLEW ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 1 sample taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	22	—	77
NORTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 18 samples taken—16 satisfactory ; 2 unsatisfactory	No	Chlorination	308	—	1078
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	No piped supply Private wells only	In the past	Nil	—	—	—
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 11 samples taken—10 satisfactory ; 1 unsatisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	45	—	144
SOURTON ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 2 samples taken—satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	39	—	137
SOUTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 10 samples taken—all satisfactory	Nil	Chlorination	250	—	875
SPREYTON ...	(a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	No piped supply Wells only	No	Nil	—	—	—
THROWLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply. 9 samples taken—all satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	18	—	63

N.D.W.B. = North Devon Water Board Main Service

